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at least one support panel formed of at least one sheet of glass or plastic and comprising a face configured to support items, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners; and
a plurality of coverpieces comprising a plurality of cornerpieces each positioned to cover one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein the plurality of cornerpieces covers an entire periphery of the at least one support panel when assembled.

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30. (Twice Amended) A shelf capable of supporting foodstuffs in a refrigerator, comprising:

at least one support panel formed of at least one sheet of glass or plastic and comprising a face configured to support items, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners; and

a plurality of coverpieces comprising at least one cornerpiece covering one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein at least one of the plurality of coverpieces is adapted to fit together with another one of the plurality of coverpieces.

31. (Twice Amended) A shelf capable of supporting foodstuffs in a refrigerator, comprising:

at least one support panel formed of at least one sheet of glass or plastic and comprising a face configured to support items, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners; and

a plurality of coverpieces comprising at least one cornerpiece covering one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein at least one of the plurality of coverpieces is adapted to slip or slide in another one of the plurality of coverpieces so as to form a telescopic set of coverpieces.

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43. (Twice Amended) A shelf according to claims 29, 30, 31 or 32, wherein at least one of the plurality of coverpieces includes at least one backrest or is configured to receive the at least one backrest.

~~46.-48. (Canceled)~~

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50. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 49, wherein at least two of the plurality of coverpieces or cornerpieces are fitted one with the other over at least part of their length and height.

Please add new Claims 51-54 as follows:

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51. (New) A refrigerator comprising at least one shelf including at least one support panel formed of at least one sheet of glass or plastic, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners, and a plurality of coverpieces comprising a plurality of cornerpieces each positioned to cover one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein the plurality of cornerpieces covers an entire periphery of the at least one support panel when assembled.

52. (New) A refrigerator comprising at least one shelf including at least one support panel formed of at least one sheet of glass or plastic, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners, and a plurality of coverpieces comprising at least one cornerpiece covering one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein at least one of the plurality of coverpieces is adapted to fit together with another one of the plurality of coverpieces.

53. (New) A refrigerator comprising at least one shelf including at least one support panel formed of at least one sheet of glass or plastic, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners, and a plurality of coverpieces comprising at least one cornerpiece

covering one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein at least one of the plurality of coverpieces is adapted to slip or slide in another one of the plurality of coverpieces so as to form a telescopic set of coverpieces.

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54. (New) A refrigerator comprising at least one shelf including at least one support panel formed of at least one sheet of glass or plastic, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners, and a plurality of coverpieces comprising at least one cornerpiece covering one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, wherein at least one of the plurality of coverpieces is attached to the at least one support panel via at least one internal relief provided on the at least one of the plurality of coverpieces, thereby allowing the at least one of the plurality of coverpieces to be anchored in at least one groove made on the at least one support panel.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 29-43, 45 and 49-54 are presently pending in this application, Claims 46-48 having been canceled, and Claims 29-31 and 50 having been amended, and Claims 51-54 having been newly added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because of informalities; the specification was objected to for informalities; Claims 29-31, 33/29-31, 34/30-31, 35/30-31, 36/29-31, 37/29-31, 38/29-31, 40/29-31, 41/29-31, 42/29-31, 43/29-31 and 45/29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bickford (U.S. Patent 4,117,614); and Claims 46-48 and 50/46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as